

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

11414
A57733

Food Information Series
United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Information
Washington 25, D. C.

July 23, 1943

LIBRARY
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
JUL 24 1943
No. 41

Subject: Conservation and Re-use of Agricultural Bags

Field Distribution: War Board members, Extension Editors, BAE analysts
FDA Marketing Reports Chiefs, SCS, FSA, FCA Regional
Information Chiefs

Suggested Use: Background information; use in local releases and radio

The Supply Situation

As a result of the War, the overall supply of textile and paper bagging materials is not sufficient to meet all requirements. However, through the cooperative efforts of the War Production Board and the War Food Administration, a sufficient supply of materials is expected to be available to provide burlap, cotton and paper bags for agricultural needs this year, if we conserve our present bag supply. We can maintain this relatively favorable supply situation only if we obtain maximum conservation and re-use of bags now held in commercial and agricultural channels. Such conservation measures are in addition to those required under the War Production Board Conservation Order M-221.

Government Conservation Order and Price Ceilings

War Production Board Order M-221 is a conservation measure which controls the manufacture and use of textile bags. In addition to insuring conservation in the use of bags, the order limits the quantity of new bags for specific uses. Recently this order was revised to increase the number of burlap bags that can be used for packaging agricultural products. Larger allowances were given for processed feed, seed and grain.

Under the revised order, quotas for delivery of bags to users, including farmers, were established. A user may elect a quota of 500 bags for all listed products, or for each particular product he may accept a stated percentage of his purchases in 1941. The listed products in quota percentages, compared with those in the order originally, are:

	Quota Under M-221 as Amended On June 11, 1943 Percent of 1941	Quota Under M-221 as Previously Amended Percent of 1941
Flour	100	0
Processed feed	100	50
Seed and grain	70	50
Mohair	Unlimited	Unlimited
Wool and wool products	Unlimited	Unlimited
Other Listed Agricultural Products 1/	50	50
1/ Except refined sugar, salt, tankage or fertilizer. Use of burlap for these products is prohibited.		

Users of agricultural bags are protected from price raises through price ceilings on both new and used bags, which have been in effect for some time.

Conservation and Re-Use of Agricultural Bags

Early in 1942 the State and County USDA War Boards were instructed to put bag conservation programs into effect. The object of these programs was two-fold:

1. To encourage farmers to save bags so that supplies on hand would last longer and be re-used repeatedly.
2. To speed up the re-use of bags into normal trade channels.

In view of the supply situation the necessity for carefully observing these two objectives this year is apparent. Continuing such activities will tend to reduce new bag requirements, relieve local shortages, and help promote a greater flow of useable second-hand bags into trade channels for shipment into deficit areas.

There are many things farmers themselves can do in following conservation measures on the farm. They can:

1. Handle them properly to prolong their usefulness.

Bags should be opened by pulling the chain stitch at the proper end; this avoids damage that occurs when bags are cut open with a knife. (Cutting bags open is now a violation of War Production Board Conservation Order M-221.) Bags should be shaken free of all contents, cleaned and repaired as soon as possible to avoid deterioration. They should be handled in such a way as to prevent mutilation through ripping and tearing.

2. Store them where they will not be subject to destruction.

Proper storage on the farm will do much to keep the available bag supply in use. Bags should be stored in a dry place, preferably hanging over a wire away from a wall or ceiling where they cannot be reached by rats or mice. They should not be piled up on cement floors, or where grease and dirt can accumulate. They should be free of all contents before storage, so that the fabric does not become caked or rotted.

3. Get them back into circulation for re-use.

In many areas used bags can be returned to trade channels by selling them to second-hand bag dealers. However, many activities have been carried out in the states to assure the greatest possible re-use of agricultural bags. These have included "bag exchanges" sponsored by County USDA War Boards in cooperation with bag dealers, feed stores, country elevators, and other local

business establishments. Through such arrangements, many farmers have been able to dispose of surplus bags so that other farmers could obtain them. This activity should be continued to keep bags moving into the trade and into farm areas.

Farmers should not under any condition hoard bags. By getting them into channels for re-use, the bag shortage can be relieved considerably.

